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Docket No.: 4481-021

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Inventor(s): Manfred BERNDT

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/598,968

Filed: June 22, 2000

For: DEVICE TO OPERATE A LABORATORY MICROCHIP

Confirmation No.8551

Group Art Unit: 1755

Examiner: BROWN, JENNINE M.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the information set forth herein. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Accordingly, applicant submits herewith payment of \$180.00

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Applicant submits herewith photographs of a cartridge for a microfluidic chip of the type used in the present invention. The cartridge is believed to have been developed in the United States prior to the present invention. Applicant has no knowledge of the cartridge being available or known to the public in the United States prior to the present invention. The photographed cartridge is believed to be of interest only for background purposes because (1) it does not include an interface that is releasably connectable to the cartridge (i.e., interface-holder) or (2) is not in combination with plural interface elements having supply lines for selective connection between supply lines of the cartridge and supply elements of microfluidic chips, wherein different interface elements have different supply line connections.

Figure 1 is a side view of the cartridge;

Figure 2 is a bottom view of the cartridge as illustrated in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is an isometric view of the cartridge of Figures 1 and 2; and

Figure 4 is a view of the cartridge from the same side as Figure 1.

Electrodes and circular fluid supply pads fixedly mounted on a single non-releasable interface plate of the cartridge are clearly visible in Figures 2 and 3. The non-releasable interface plate is shown in Figure 4 as being turned through an angle of about 45° relative to the cartridge body.

A credit card authorization form in the amount of \$180.00 is attached. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 07-1337.

Respectfully submitted,

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